

**WEEKEND, March 19-20, 2016**

**No. 1 in Palo Alto and the Mid-Peninsula**

# Company hit with \$8 million verdict over baby's death

A jury has returned an \$8 million verdict against a playpen manufacturer over the death of a 7-month-old San Carlos girl, according to the family's attorneys.

Abby Karow died almost six years ago after being placed face down in an Evenflo BabyGo playpen, like the one at her former Redwood City daycare. The parents were told Abby died from sudden infant death syndrome, otherwise known as SIDS, even though she had none of the risk factors. Tiffany Karow, the girl's mother. [See VERDICT, page 50]

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# Official's trip raises eyebrows

**BY JOSEPH MAYTON**  
Daily Post Staff Writer

A San Mateo County Harbor District commissioner has raised eyebrows over a two-day trip she made to Morro Bay that cost the district over \$1,000.



**BRENNAN**

Board President Tom Mattusch said the matter "surprised everyone."

## Cost for 2 days was over \$1,000

Harbor District Commissioner Sabrina Brennan attended a meeting in Morro Bay on Feb. 10, when the California Coastal Commission was deciding the fate of its then embattled executive director, Charles Lester.

Brennan spent the night before the commission meeting at the Inn at Morro Bay, attended the meeting and, after

spending a second night at the hotel, returned to the Bay Area.

The harbor district has taken no position on whether Lester should have been fired. But Brennan, who supported Lester (according to her Facebook page), sought district funds to pay for her trip to the meeting where his firing was considered.

Board Vice President Virginia Chang Kiraly asked General Manager Steve McGrath at a Wednesday meeting, "Do we have a policy in place as to what constitutes a valid meeting?" McGrath said the district did. He did not elaborate at the time and a motion to pay all outstanding bills, including Brennan's reimbursement, was approved.

It is unclear how a two-day trip [See TRIP, page 50]

## THE UPDATE

Dow <b>+120.81</b>	Nasdaq <b>+20.66</b>	Oil <b>-0.76</b>
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**CORRECTION:** In the Post's article yesterday regarding the proposal for 429 University Ave. in Palo Alto, resident Michael Harbour, who filed an appeal over the approval of the project, asked to speak during Thursday's Architectural Review Board meeting at a time when public comments are not permitted, but he obtained permission from board Chair Robert Gooyer. Other people spoke at this time too, including property owner Elizabeth Wong and her son, who was told to sit down by Gooyer.

**FREEWAY CLOSURES** for the Highway 101-Broadway interchange project will last through the weekend until about 8 a.m. tomorrow. Highway 101 will be closed on the northbound side near Burlingame today and tomorrow from midnight to 6 a.m. and signs will be posted in order for drivers to find alternate routes through the city's streets.

**AIRLINER CRASHES:** A Dubai airliner with 62 people on board crashed and caught fire early today while landing in strong winds in the [See THE UPDATE, page 4]



**JUST LIKE 'MASH'** — These tents are located just a few feet from the ER entrance at Stanford Hospital. Post photo.

# Stanford Hospital uses tents for ER's overflow

Stanford Hospital has a new "MASH"-like tent area just outside the emergency room where patients could be seen coming and going.

Patients and visitors confirmed that people were being treated in the tents.

The tents might remind some of TV's "MASH," about doctors

during the Korean War. The tents appear to be equipped with all the technology typically used in an ER.

By around 6 p.m. last night, the wait time for the ER on the hospital website was approximately one hour, down substantially from earlier in the day. A media contact [See TENTS, page 50]

# Harrowing testimony in rape trial

## Woman awoke in hospital after a party at Stanford

**BY JEN NOWELL**  
Daily Post Staff Writer

The woman whom a former Stanford swimmer allegedly sexually assaulted gave emotional testimony yesterday, explaining how she woke up in the hospital disoriented and confused.

The 23-year-old "Jane Doe," a Gunn High graduate whose name is being withheld to protect her privacy, took the stand in a Palo Alto courtroom, saying she has no memory of the incident which occurred Jan. 18, 2015. It wasn't until she went to the restroom at the hospital and realized her underwear was gone that she knew something was wrong.

Brock Allen Turner, who was 19 at the time, has been charged with three felony counts — assault with intent to commit rape, sexual penetration of an intoxicated person and sexual penetration of an unconscious person.

In February 2015, he pleaded innocent to five felony charges, which were later reduced [See, RAPE page 50]



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## VERDICT

er, said that she hopes the verdict will save the lives of other babies.

"It means that maybe it won't happen to someone else," Karow told KRON 4.

On Thursday, the jury placed the blame on the mattress cover.

"If the baby is put down on that, then that baby cannot breathe through that," attorney Joseph Carcione Jr. said.

### Testing

The couple's lawyer took the Evenflo BabyGo mattress pad along with nearly 20 others types to a lab to test the breathability of the fabrics and found that the mattress pad fabric that Abby had been placed on registered very poorly in comparison to some other brands.

Carcione told ABC 7 the jury found it was the equivalent of a plastic bag.

"You put your baby on that product, the baby can't breathe, and the baby will die," he said.

## TRIP

would have cost over \$1,000, Kiraly said. Mattusch said the board is "looking to investigate what happened and why it was so much money." He told the Post yesterday that the standard policy is for any travel request to be authorized by the board president, himself, but he said "nobody had any idea of the details" of Brennan's trip. He didn't authorize the trip ahead of time.

Instead, Brennan went to McGrath, who told the Post that "I take full responsibility" for the travel. "In my previous position, I approved travel and expenses like this, but yes, this would have required her to check with the board."

### Brennan responds

Brennan told the Post yesterday that she "did not speak for the board during the hearing and I did not bring a letter from the board." Upon returning from the meeting, she says she was asked to provide "my receipts."

"I would have been fine if the board had decided not to cover the cost of the trip at all," she added. "I told the (general manager) I was going to the Coastal Commission hearing and he said the meeting had statewide significance and that I should provide an oral report to the board on the outcome of the hearing and turn in my travel information."

### A lack of rooms

She said that she attempted to book a budget hotel, but they were all full, so she stayed at the inn because that was where the meeting was taking place. She "got the last room they had left."

The hotel costs approximately \$200 per night, according to the Inn's website.

McGrath noted that per diem rates for daily expenses are dependent on where one is traveling, per the U.S. General Services Administration website. The agency says of Morro Bay, the per diem rate is \$112. It is unclear if gas is included in the per diem.

Brennan's spending has prompted a review and clarification of policies, said McGrath.

"We are looking to bring the policy up in April and make it clear and in line with any regulations the board would like to see," he said.

But another concern is Brennan's purpose of the trip and when she plans to detail the visit to the coast with the board. Mattusch said that this has not happened yet and he is interested in knowing all the details of the trip.

At that meeting in Morro Bay, then Executive Director Charles Lester was fired in a 7-5 vote in a closed session, which angered many environmental groups.

Brennan resigned from the district commission's presidency last year, handing power over to Mattusch. Throughout her time on the board, she has had a number of battles with other board members. She also opposed Kiraly's appointment late last year.

## RAPE

to three. Deputies found him pinned by two good Samaritans who allegedly encountered him on top of the woman outside the Kappa Alpha house at 664 Lomita Court in January of last year, according to a report by the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office.

The two men who found Turner were bicycling by just before 1 a.m. and noticed a man on top of a woman on the ground near a dumpster, the sheriff's office's report said. The woman appeared to be unconscious.

Turner, an Ohio resident, was a freshman at Stanford until he withdrew from the university shortly after his arrest.

### The day in question

During her testimony, Doe, who had recently graduated college, went through what she had done earlier in the day before attending the party. She said she went for an afternoon hike with her sister and a friend at Arastradero Preserve, ate tacos at a restaurant and then went home, before deciding to join her sister and two friends who were going to a fraternity party at Stanford.

One of her sister's friends was a Stanford student. Doe, who grew up in Palo Alto, spoke yesterday about selling Girl Scout cookies at Stanford when she was younger, but this was the first fraternity party she had ever attended.

Doe said that before leaving for the party, she had four shots of whiskey at her home with her sister and a glass of champagne. She described how she felt "buzzed."

Her mom then drove the group to campus. When they arrived at the Kappa Alpha house, Doe said she felt "silly" and was embarrassing her sister by singing out loud and dancing.

### Drinking

She described drinking more at the party and she said she remembers standing outside on the back patio with her sister, a friend and three men.

One of the men gave her a beer, but she said she only drank some of it.

The next thing Doe said she remembers is waking up in a hospital hallway. But she said she didn't know why she was there, what time it was or where she was. "I was feeling really out of it," she said.

Doe said she was lying on a gurney in hospital pants, her dress pulled up to her waist and dried blood

on her hand. She initially thought she had fallen or was in trouble with the university, she said.

A police deputy told her he had reason to believe she had been sexually assaulted.

But Doe said she kept thinking they must have the "wrong person."

Eventually, she was able to use the restroom, and it was when she went to pull her underwear down and they weren't there that she realized what the deputy said was true.

Doe said she felt pine needles on her neck, and when she looked in the mirror, her hair was disheveled.

### Agreed to exam

Doe agreed to a Sexual Assault Response Team, or SART, exam, in which evidence was collected, photographs were taken and injuries were documented.

Before Doe took the stand, Kristine Setterlund, the nurse who examined both Doe and Turner, testified.

Setterlund said Doe's injuries included abrasions and erythema — redness of the skin. Doe had abrasions on her buttocks, the left side of her neck, below her clavicle, and on her chest and back. Doe also has abrasions and redness to her genital area.

### 'Significant trauma'

Setterlund said there was "significant trauma" to Doe's genital area, but she said she can't confirm what caused her injuries.

From Turner, Setterlund swabbed his hands, mouth and pants, and she took a saliva sample. She said his clothes were disheveled and there was soil and leaves on the back of his shirt.

He also had abrasions on his arms, hip and lower back, Setterlund said.

On the morning of the alleged incident, Doe's sister called her nine times between 12:30 a.m. and 1:30 a.m., but Doe didn't answer these calls. Doe also had missed calls from her boyfriend.

## TENTS

person did not return Post call late yesterday afternoon for additional information regarding the tents and the overflow of patients at the emergency room.

In 2018, a new Stanford Hospital is expected to open. Currently under construction, the new facility will be 824,000 square feet and, according to the university, will have an additional 368 beds, bringing the total to 600.

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